

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

## The National Tribune.

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JOHN McELROY, Editor.

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### NOTICE.

When you send in your subscription always state whether renewal or new subscriber.

When you renew from another post office give former address as well.

When change of address is desired be sure to give former address.

St. Cloud has done far more to advertise Florida's extraordinary climate and opportunities than any one thing that has been done for many years.

Consul Frank Deedmeister says that Canada's music is distinctly American, and printed music and music for mechanical players are sold everywhere. A new popular air in this country invades Canada at once, and is heard quite as often there as here.

The St. Cloud Tribune has become so prosperous that it is necessary to enlarge it to six pages. The pressure of live business men there upon its advertising columns compelled this enlargement. The Tribune will also install a linotype machine. What better evidence could there be of the wonderful development of St. Cloud?

While it is true that \$1,000 an acre is not an unusual profit on Florida lands, yet it must not be understood that this is waiting to be picked off like blackberries. It requires brains and industry to make \$1,000 an acre anywhere or off anything. All that is intended to be said is that this can be done with far less brains and work in Florida than anywhere else.

A plan is under consideration to build a clubhouse at Lake Gentry, one of the four beautiful sheets of water which surround the St. Cloud tract. The country in that neighborhood is a good hunting and fishing district, and there are several families there now. The construction of a school house will very shortly be considered. This would make an ideal place for a clubhouse or for winter cottages.

A little sum in multiplication will tell pretty accurately what the dollar-a-day bill will cost. It proposes to give every civil war veteran on the pension roll \$1 a day. That would be \$365 a year. There are about 575,000 civil war veterans on the roll. Therefore, to find out what the dollar-a-day bill will cost it is only necessary to multiply 575,000 by \$365. The rates above \$1 a day will not count, as there are comparatively few of them.

Major-General Daniel E. Sickles announces the dedication on Nov. 15 of the splendid New York memorial on Lookout Mountain, in the erection of which he has been the directing spirit. Gen. Sickles has erected a monument of great artistic beauty and one which is a high credit to the State of New York. The monument, which will cost about \$75,000, stands on the most commanding site on Lookout Mountain, where it overlooks several States and one of the most romantic landscapes in the world.

As usual in England, the crisis which some alarmists predicted would make a revolution will result in a compromise. The House of Lords has accepted the budget, and will accept many reforms of their membership. Just what these reforms will be will have to be thrashed out by general discussion. Nobody of any weight of opinion desires the House of Lords to be abolished. While it is absurd to think that a man can be born into Parliament, yet a counterbalance to the House of Commons is felt to be absolutely necessary, and this will be secured by remodeling the Upper House and making it a more representative body. Something will probably be done to bring it near the character of the United States Senate, but this will be a bitter pill, since if anything the British lords dread it is the "Americanization" of the British Government.

Even poor old Spain is following the prod of the 20th century and being forced into progress. The report of Consul General A. E. Carleton, of Almeria, Spain, says that the marble quarries in his district have been worked for many centuries in the crude, old-fashioned way, with the stone being gotten out by cutting grooves with a hammer and chisel, then driving wedges into these, splitting the pieces off and squaring them all by hand labor. The quarried stone has been carried off over rough roads in ox carts. A syndicate of English capitalists has invaded this district, and is now working the quarries with improved machinery, which produces marble at a vastly less cost. Suction gas engines run saws for cutting the masses out of the quarry and to work the machinery for lifting and handling the stone. Traction engines carry 30 ton loads of this over good roads to the railroad. In order to compete with them the other quarries have to revolutionize their methods.

### THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE PENSION BILL.

The only strong objections made to The National Tribune pension bill are: 1. Its great expense. 2. That it is premature. As to the first, it must be kept in mind that the fierce ravages of death are shrinking its expense startlingly every day. The Nation's liabilities to its veterans are being reduced far faster than any previous shrinkage of its indebtedness, even during the marvelous debt-paying period which followed the war. Every day at least 100 pensioners pass off the roll. As the average pension is \$169 a year, this makes a daily reduction of \$16,900, or a reduction of \$507,000 a month, or \$6,084,000 a year. This reduction must rapidly increase as the years go by. The death rate has leaped up, as shown by the report of the Adjutant-General of the Grand Army of the Republic, from one per cent to nearly five in the last few years.

The report of the Commissioner of Pensions is even more eloquent, as it shows that where there are some 260,000 pensioners on the roll at 69 years and under, there are only 47,899 at 70, and this drops to 16,552 at 71.

Had The National Tribune pension bill gone into operation June 30, 1909, it might possibly have cost in excess of \$30,000,000. It did not go into operation then, and cannot, even with the best intentions of Congress, go into operation before June 30, 1911. By that time more than 100,000 of those who would have been its beneficiaries June 30, 1909, will be in their graves, beyond the reach of the most active and willing pension agents. That is, there must be at once a reduction of \$17,000,000 from the death of the pensioners alone from what it would have cost June 30, 1909.

All the calculations against The National Tribune pension bill are based upon the condition of things which existed June 30, 1909, which will soon be two years away, with two years awful ravages in the ranks of the pensioners. Second, as to its prematurity, Congress has never been noted for alacrity in passing pension legislation, and therefore experience has taught The National Tribune that agitation for any extension of legislation must be begun betimes. That we have not been over hasty in this matter is abundantly shown by the action of great political conventions asking for a \$1-a-day pension, which is much farther advanced than The National Tribune pension bill.

When we stop to reflect that every year a greater army is marching across the river than Gen. Grant landed at Pittsburg Landing to fight the battle of Shiloh or Gen. Rosecrans led out of Nashville for the sanguinary conflict of Stone River is passing into eternity far beyond the reach of pension legislation, with every man needing and deserving all that the Nation can give him to soothe his last sad, sick, desponding hours, we do not think that the charge of prematurity is worthy of much consideration.

### THE VICKSBURG MILITARY PARK.

The report of Wm. T. Rigby, James G. Everest and Lewis G. Smith, Commissioners of the Vicksburg National Military Park Commission, was given out by the War Department last Monday. It says that the second observation tower has been finished and the third is under construction. Mississippi has dedicated her memorial and 23 monuments. Wisconsin's memorial, costing about \$100,000, is under construction. Louisiana has given 12 monuments. Missouri three, Tennessee one and Virginia one. There are now 445 memorials, monuments and markers in the park and under construction. Of these 405 are Union and 40 Confederate. About 100 more are expected. The aggregate of appropriations for the park by the United States is \$1,175,000. A monument not to cost in excess of \$125,000 will be erected to the Confederate Navy on the Mississippi. The report says with regard to portraits, statues and tablets:

"Contracts in connection with the Union Navy memorial assure four bronze portrait statues for the park of Flag Officers Andrew H. Foote, Charles H. Davis, David D. Porter and David G. Farragut, respectively. Two such statues will be placed in the park. Confederate—Lieut.-Gen. Stephen D. Lee, full-length figure, given by his son Blewett and friends in 27 States; Brig.-Gen. John H. Garrott, bust, given by his sons, Frederick B. and Sidell; Lieut.-Gen. John C. Pemberton, equestrian, given by his son, Frank R.; Col. Jas. H. Jones, bust, given by his family. Confederate—Col. Joseph J. Wood, given by his family. Confederate—Col. Edward Higgins, given by Louisiana. Confederate—Lieut. John H. Smith, given by sculptor Adolph A. Weinman; Brig.-Gen. Mortimer D. Leggett, given by sculptor Henry H. Kites. Confederate—Gen. Louis Hebert and Francis A. Shoup; Col. Leon D. Marks, Robert Richardson and Allen Thomas, given by Louisiana Parish police juries. It is reasonable to expect in the near future and as gifts statues of Gens. Grant, Logan, Osterhaus, Buckland (Union), and Forney (Confederate)."

It is expected that Minnesota will give a statue of Gen. Sanborn, Nebraska one of Gen. Thayer, New York one of Gen. Potter, and Pennsylvania one of Gen. Parke. The Commission hopes to secure the portrait, statue or tablet of each commander of a brigade, division or corps, of every field officer or battery commander killed or mortally wounded. Each will be put in its place in the line, and when this is done the battle will be wonderfully represented. There are 826 tablets in the park, of which 30 are bronze, 566 iron, 568 Union and 328 Confederate. The trenches, battery positions and approaches are all marked by historic tablets.

Willis Turner, who bought some land near St. Petersburg, Fla., is going to try the experiment of covering a portion of his land with canvas in order to protect the tender early vegetables from frost. If this meets with success, he will later put his whole holding under canvas; that is, he will have the canvas ready for emergency.

### SPEAKER CANNON HELPFUL IN PENSIONS.

The politicians whose sole stock in trade is opposition to Speaker Cannon, and who have tried so hard to make him a bugbear, are specially active in denouncing him for opposition to pension legislation. Nothing can be more unjust. Nothing can be more ungrateful to a man whom we know from personal acquaintance of 25 years as always being actively helpful in the matter of pension legislation. Every pension law now on the statute books has been put there by the active assistance of Mr. Cannon either as a leader in the House or its Speaker. His truth will be denied by anyone. His truth will be attested by every comrade who has served on the G. A. R. Pension Committee. The committee has always gone straight to Mr. Cannon, met a cordial reception from him and found him instantly, wisely and efficiently helpful. No one in the House did anything like as much as Mr. Cannon to bring about the prompt passage of the McCumber bill, which proved to be the greatest benefit to hundreds of thousands of our comrades and their widows. It is rank ingratitude on the part of any veteran to ignore this claim of Mr. Cannon's upon his consideration.

### JEFF DAVIS AND BEAUREGARD HONORED.

The people of Calcasieu Parish, La., are to vote for a division of the Parish into four parts, when two will be named for Jeff Davis and Beauregard. This naming is the work of the Daughters of the Confederacy, who wanted to have these two men honored in the names of parishes as well as Grant and Lincoln. It would seem that the Daughters of the Confederacy were again seeking to be as irritating and insulting to the Union men as possible. The Parish to be named Jeff Davis is that portion which has been settled principally by Northern men, and has in it a very large proportion of the old soldiers of the Union residents in Louisiana. It has the only G. A. R. Post in that part of the State. It is for this reason that the Daughters of the Confederacy particularly insist that the new Parish should be given the name most odious to the Union people. It is particularly ungrateful, since the Northern men who have settled there have made that part of the State unusually fruitful and profitable. They have spent money and labor to reduce what was a sterile plain and make it one of the choicest spots in the State. They have increased the value of the land fully 100-fold.

### ONE MORE GRAND RALLY.

Editor National Tribune: Please give me leave to say that the columns of your paper that I hope the old boys in Michigan will make one more grand rally, and repulse the attempt which is afoot to replace Senator Burrows, their old comrade and tried and true champion. We shall never have another chance to put one of our number in his place, so let us all rally and make our voices heard. I am, Sir, your old friend, Second Deputy Sergeant, Co. L, S. A. N. Y. Cav., Crystal, Mich.

This appeal to the veterans in Michigan and their friends is most timely. Not only Senator Burrows a pillar of strength in the Senate to the veterans, but he is of the greatest value and service to Michigan. Few States have so much influence in the councils of the Nation as Senator Burrows gives Michigan. He has richly earned this prominence by his great abilities, by his single-hearted devotion to his duties, and by his unsurpassed knowledge of public business. In his nearly 40 years of service in both Houses no one can point out where Senator Burrows has failed to do the right thing at the right time and with zeal and high discretion. Therefore, his retention in the public service is strongly needed by the whole country. Let there be no doubt as to his re-election.

Brig.-Gen. Marion P. Maus, U. S. Army, Commander of the Department of the Columbia, has recently returned from a tour of inspection in Alaska, and throws some very salutary cold water on the gold-hunting fever. Instead of the output at Iditarod this year reaching up to \$10,000,000 or more, Gen. Maus thinks that it will not exceed \$200,000, or not enough to fairly support the 2,000 men already there. Unless something is done to immediately stop the rush and even bring back many who are there, there must be a great deal of suffering and starvation. Gen. Maus concludes: "Alaska has reached the stage of big development projects. The day for the small miner is over, because there are no more places where a man can get rich by a little scratching."

A committee consisting of Col. H. S. Redman and Col. Samuel G. Pierce, of Rochester, N. Y., have gone to New York City to confer with representatives of the Eastern Trunk Line Traffic Association to obtain, if possible, a promise of a rate not exceeding one and one-quarter cents from all points within the Association's territory to the National Encampment at Rochester. The Publicity Committee and the Pension Committee of Rochester are working hard to secure the Encampment, and feel that they are on the road to success.

The Department of Kentucky announces that it has decided to boycott the railroads on account of the unjust discrimination against the veterans. This means, we presume, that only the officers and delegates from the G. A. R., W. R. C. and Sons of Veterans will attend, with the mass of the comrades and their wives remaining at home. The railroads deserve such a boycott, much as we regret the absence of our Kentucky friends from the great gathering, which will be a deprivation to them as well as us.

All fears as to Mayor Gaynor's sinking under his would have been pretty well dissipated, and now it is believed by everyone that he will be able to leave for the Adirondacks in two weeks and be back at his desk in a month. The family are even more optimistic than the physicians. The Mayor expresses no bitterness against his assailants, and hopes that he will be treated as insane rather than criminal.

### CONFEDERATE PENSIONS.

The pension expenditures of every one of the Southern States are constantly rising in number and also in individual amount. So much so is this that the same class of men who are objecting to pensions in the North are in the South vigorously alleging that more money should be spent for good roads, education, sanitation and the maintenance of the State institutions for the dependent and defective classes. Confederate pensions are in all cases lower than those granted by the Government, but there are not lacking persons who vigorously attack the "burden." In 1906 there were found to be 99,049 Confederate pensioners in all the Southern States, with a total expenditure of \$3,875,000, so that the average pension was less than \$40 a year. There has been no collation of these statistics since then, but it is known that there has been a general increase of numbers and amounts all along the line. Georgia began pensioning indigent Confederates in 1896, and in 1902 extended the pension law to indigent widows. Recently a constitutional amendment was adopted which makes a decided increase. Indigent Confederate veterans and widows residing in Georgia now receive a pension of \$60 a year. Those who have specific disabilities receive higher ratings. The highest is for total loss of sight, which is \$150. Those who are completely disabled for the performance of manual labor get \$100. Those who have a total loss of hearing receive \$50, while the loss of a hand entitles a veteran to \$100. The lowest rate is for the loss of one finger or one toe, \$5. Georgia has found it necessary to have a Commissioner of Pensions appointed by the Governor, whose subordinate he is, and who has power to revise and change his rulings. Two years ago the office had become so important that it became a political prize and was made elective. Pensions were formerly paid in quarterly installments, but are now paid annually. Since instituting her pension system Georgia has paid something over \$14,000,000, which is a large sum for a State of no greater resources and population than Georgia. The following shows the growth of the State's pension system:

Year	Number of pensioners	Amount paid
1889	2,934	\$158,390
1895	7,208	\$211,820
1900	11,558	\$78,100
1905	15,055	\$93,069
1909	15,779	\$28,559

### U. S. PENSIONS IN THE SOUTH.

In proportion to their population, the States in the South receive an unexpectedly large amount of money from the quarterly disbursements of pensions. The following from the report of the Commissioner of Pensions shows the amount paid in each of the States south of Mason and Dixon's line:

Alabama	\$612,351.82
Arizona	48,871.28
Arkansas	1,769,363.25
California	458,406.37
District of Columbia	1,492,299.17
Florida	629,510.33
Georgia	561,077.12
Idaho	4,319,134.94
Louisiana	921,182.40
Maryland	2,164,279.99
Mississippi	760,604.19
Minnesota	8,742,756.33
New Mexico	231,623.54
North Carolina	668,913.66
South Carolina	295,021.69
Tennessee	3,165,214.29
Texas	4,437,543.54
Virginia	1,507,758.79
West Virginia	2,077,806.50

This makes \$21,965,045.29. It will be seen that while these States have much less than one-third of the entire population of the country, they are receiving about one-fifth of the entire pension payments an unexpectedly large amount when we remember what a great proportion of the population was engaged in the rebellion. When this sum is added to the other Government expenditures in the South it will be seen that that section has gotten annually a much larger percentage in disbursements than the South has contributed to the revenues of the country. The South has always paid a very small portion per capita of the Government's revenues; but, on the other hand, the Government has expended very liberally for the improvement of rivers and harbors, erection of public buildings and many other objects for which the Southern Congressmen have been particularly clamorous. For many years after the war, when the taxation was unusually high, the South paid very little of it because of the small consumption of articles on which internal and external revenues were raised. Even to-day the South buys far less per capita of imported articles which pay duties and high internal revenue taxes than any other section of the country. The rapid spread of prohibition in the South has been destructive to the great revenues coming from the sale of fermented and distilled spirits in particular.

There is another feature of the pension system which is wholly left out of the calculations. Much the greatest progress in the South has come from the investment of large amounts of Northern capital and development of industries by immigrants from the North. Everywhere in the South are found factories, railroads and furnaces built by Northern capital, farms developed by Northern settlers, and truck gardens, orange groves, peach orchards, etc., all created by Northern men, to the great increase of the taxable property of the States in which they are located. All of this influx of Northern capital, all these products of Northern skill and labor, are taxed for the payment of Confederate pensions. That is, the men who have gone South to develop that region must pay tribute to the support of the men who did all in their power to destroy the Government. For example, it was recently reported that Georgia had since the institution of her pension system paid \$14,000,000 in pensions to Confederate soldiers and their widows. A very large proportion of this \$14,000,000 must have been paid by the Northern men on their factories, railroads, peach orchards and farms. It is they whose enterprise and thrift have so developed the neglected State that Georgia has an abundance in her treasury to pay the pensions, and the pensions have risen in amount in accordance with the State's increase in taxable property and the growth of her treasury. What is true of Georgia is true of all the other States, the growth of which has been proportionate to the influx of Northern capital and enterprise. The Southerners should be the last ones to complain about any burden of pension payments.

### THE AGE OF THE WORLD.

Prof. F. W. Clarke and G. F. Becker have been making careful studies of the approximate age of the earth from all available data, which has now been published under the authority of the Smithsonian Institution. Prof. Clarke, who belongs to the Geological Survey, studied from the standpoint of chemistry, while Prof. Becker took other physical characteristics. They arrived at the conclusion that the earth is from 55,000,000 to 70,000,000 years old. Of course, a few million years do not make much difference to scientists, to whom, like the Lord, a thousand years are but as a day. The best that they can do is to note the time required for certain changes which are going on now, and to estimate from that how long it has taken certain rocks to rot down and other transformations to take place. For example, one line of evidence is based on the accumulation of rock layers in the ocean. Some of these have a known thickness of 40,000 feet. They were clearly accumulated very slowly, as we now see beds of limestone in caves and elsewhere. If this process has been going on as slowly and uninterruptedly as we are now observing at present, it would make the age of the earth 100,000,000 years. There is a similar course of reasoning based on the planing down of the mountains by the frosts and storms. Another line, and that assumed by Lord Kelvin, is based upon the rate of cooling both of the sun and of the earth. This would bring the age down to about 20,000,000 years. A few decades ago such a declaration by scientists would have come into violent conflict with the narrow theological interpretations of the book of Genesis that the world was created in six solar days. While even this was possible, as we know from some startling operations of the great forces which control the universe, yet it is more likely that the days represented geological periods corresponding with astonishing nearness to those which the geologists themselves have fixed upon. For example, geologists agree in dividing geological time into four great periods. These are again subdivided into 12 subperiods. So uncertain are the boundaries of these periods, however, that it would not be difficult to rearrange them in accordance with the days in which God created the earth. To this opinion all of the more advanced theologians have come and are being followed reluctantly by their narrower-minded brethren who insist upon taking the text of the Bible in the literal meaning of the words.

The scientific papers are ridiculing the extravagant talk of the airship people as to what they will be able to do with their aerial navy. It is very dramatic and spectacular, the talk about a fleet of airships hovering over a fleet of battleships and dropping at will terrifically destructive bombs upon their decks. In the first place, a fleet of airships will have to be a long time in view after they emerge from the horizon until they get over the battleships, and during this time they will be subjected to a fierce storm of rifle and shrapnel, which will have a very disturbing effect upon the nerves of the gentlemen who have their minds full of the problem of managing their airships. The next thing is that it is going to require the nicest calculation for a man in an airship to drop a shell upon a battleship. At any considerable height the battleship must appear a very small object, and with it in motion and the airship in motion and currents of wind intervening it is going to require the best of aiming in order for the airman to hit the seaman. Still another thing is that the experience of the Japanese at Port Arthur infused great skepticism into the much-boasted idea of high-angle fire. It will be remembered that the Japanese artillery claimed that so accurate had they gotten their aim that they were able to sink the Russian fleet by mortar fire directed from behind a hill, and we had much fine writing as to the terrific effect of a 500-pound shell descending from a height of two miles upon the decks of a doomed battleship. After the war the Japanese raised the Russian ships and made a careful study of them, when, to their astonishment, they found that few if any had been sunk by their fire. The Russians themselves had sunk their ships by opening the sea cocks. Where the ships had been actually struck the shells had done comparatively little damage. The steel-protected deck was rarely penetrated, and in only one instance had the vitals of the ship been reached.

The directors of the Elberfeld Farben Fabrik, the great chemical works of Germany, announce that their chemists have successfully synthesized India rubber from isoprene, but that they are not ready to undertake its production commercially. The scientific world was prepared for this announcement, as it has always seemed possible to make artificial rubber, and it is hoped that the same success commercially will be attained as in the synthesis of indigo. It was 15 years after the chemists succeeded in making artificial indigo that they got the business on a commercial basis, and now most of the indigo in the world is made from coal tar. We have no expectation that the manufacture of artificial rubber will be as complete a success as that of indigo. There are so many plants in the world which produce rubber that it is likely that when its production is studied it will be found that nature can produce rubber cheaper than the laboratories.

In the past decade the acreage of corn and wheat in the United States has been increased by 30 per cent. At the same time we have decreased our exportation of corn and wheat from nearly one-fourth to one-tenth of our total production, while the average price of these products has increased 52 per cent. This is an astonishing triumph of the principle that the tariff production would increase the home market for the farmer and the price of his products. The farmer has grown much more than ever before, yet he is getting much more money for what he raises, and is no longer compelled to go so large a part of the cost to the railways and steamships which carry his grain and meat for thousands of miles to find a market.

## A LAST CHANCE.

Subscribers to The National Tribune are now offered a last opportunity to secure property in the new Florida project at rock bottom prices. The time has been extended to August 31st, and until that date subscriptions for property will be received at the old price.

This new project is located in Washington County, Florida. This is the best general farming and trucking section of the State.

At least one of the townships will be located on St. Andrew's Bay, the largest and best natural harbor on the Florida coast.

The United States Government has authorized the expenditure of more than a quarter of a million dollars for the deepening of the channel and improvement of the harbor. This work will begin at an early date.

The following prices hold good until August 31st:

One town lot, 50x150 feet, and a five-acre tract of farming land outside the township, \$50.

Two town lots and two five-acre tracts, the latter constituting a solid body of ten acres, \$120.00.

Three town lots and three five-acre tracts, the latter constituting a solid body of fifteen acres, \$180.00.

Four town lots and four five-acre tracts, the latter constituting a solid body of twenty acres, \$240.00.

This will positively be the last opportunity to secure property in this new project at the above figures. After August 31st the cost of a town lot and five-acre tract will be \$300.00.

Address THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C.

There is no end to the funny and grossly misleading things which one can find in reading stories of the war by callow youths who do not sense the great struggle. For example, in the Omaha World is quite an account of Samuel J. Donohoe, in which is recited the great service of the family to the Confederacy, and continues:

"Another brother, Samuel J. Donohoe, was assigned by the family to stay at home and care for the father, mother and sisters. This proved to be even a more arduous duty for him than to face the rattle of musketry and the crash of the field guns. Besides the constant longing to fly to the aid of 'Mother Virginia,' in the latter years of the war, he had to dodge conscription, necessitating many a night's hiding in the timber and brush. In the Confederacy, in reading stories of the war by craven's last desperate struggle to escape from the meshes which Grant, Sherman, Sheridan and Thomas had woven about it, more boys and gray-headed men were brought into the ranks of the gray, but Sam Donohoe was steadfast in caring for the trust imposed upon him, and stayed with his father and his father's family. S. Rosser Donohoe, the youngest brother, was of too tender years for conscription even in the Confederacy's direct straits, and he was therefore never in the service. He came to Omaha with Charles Donohoe, and was employed as express messenger with the Pacific Express Company until his death in 1909."

It is exasperatingly funny to think of the boy burning with desire to fight in the Confederate ranks, and yet lying out of the house night after night for years to avoid being put into the Confederate army.

We are not nearly so anxious to have the pistol-toting habit abolished as to have the boy with a shotgun restrained. He has nearly exterminated the dear little bluebirds. These are not only exceedingly welcome to the sight, but they are actively useful. It is estimated that the presence of a pair of bluebirds in an orchard is worth five bushels of fruit, so industrious are they in destroying insects. The cheerful bobwhite is another lamented victim of the indiscriminating shotgun. One authority says:

"Bob-white has been accused of robbing grain fields in the South, the post-mortems have shown that only 20 per cent of his food is grain, and that he eats more than a thousand weeds and seeds in a meal. On this basis a Virginia bird lover proved that with all his crimes against grain, bob-white more than atoned by eating 572 tons of weeds in that State every winter, not to mention his Summer diet of grasshoppers and chinch bugs and wire worms and beetles and boll weevils and caterpillars."

A few years ago the scientists confidently assured us that they had mastered the destructive chinch bug, and that he would trouble the farmers no more. Like too many, alas! of the sanguine predictions of scientists, this has not been realized, and the chinch bug seems as ravenous, as numerous and as destructive as of yore. The farmers in the great wheat-growing district of Sumner County, Kan., held a meeting July 15, at which the prevailing opinion was that they were tired of raising wheat to feed chinch bugs. They proposed to stop wheat for a year or so, so as to starve the pests out. The question arose what they would make take the place of wheat, and most of them favored corn growing until starvation had done its work. If they can get early rains, corn can be made to pay more than wheat does.

Stories about Japanese fighting have always to be taken with caution, as the Japanese are even bigger liars about their exploits than white men. All the same, they seem to have quite a picturesque little war in Formosa. They say that they have built a line of intrenchments 307 miles long, over mountains from 3,000 to 4,000 feet high, and that the natives will rush on to their bayonets, not knowing they are dangerous. The Japanese plant guns on a mountain top, and shell the natives out of strongholds on other peaks miles away. Japan has now had Formosa 15 years, but her success in dealing with the country falls mortifyingly short in comparison with American operations in the Philippines. Before she thinks of taking anything else, Japan had better make good her hold on what she has.

Comrade John W. Frazier, Chairman of the Philadelphia Brigade Association, has gotten out a handsome little pamphlet in advocacy of the erection in Washington of a statue to Gen. Geo. Meade. This contains the letter to Gov. Stewart, the Governor's reply, and the letters of a great number of prominent men urging such a monument to the man who commanded the Army of the Potomac longer and far more successfully than any other.

An index of the way the farmers in the West are prospering is afforded by the returns of the Assessors of Pawnee County, Kan., which show an increase of \$6,007,070 in taxable property over last year. This is 32 per cent, which is astonishing in what is purely an agricultural country and not the richest by any means in the State or the Nation. The assessed valuation of the taxable property in Pawnee County would, if divided equally, give every man, woman and child \$2,745 in cash. The Larned Chronicle says:

"Pawnee is certainly prosperous. On top of its wealth of land and personal property it is harvesting the biggest wheat crop in its history at this time, and the outlook for corn is most promising. A more happy, contented and prosperous community cannot be found."

Those tiresome people whose main object in life seems to be to see terrible evils in anything that the rest of the community wants are now protesting against the parade of the military on the Fourth of July. They point out that the Declaration of Independence was a purely civil function, performed by civilians and far from any scenes of strife. All the same, it took seven years of mighty hard work by the soldiers to make the Declaration good, and, therefore, the soldiers would seem a necessary feature in any celebration. Anyway, these people are going too far in making a denatured Fourth of July. They have already stopped the sale of fire crackers in many cities, and now, if they eliminate the troops, the Fourth of July will hardly be worth having.

New York is building a City Hall which will be the wonder of the world. It is located near the terminus of the Brooklyn Bridge, will have a frontage of 381 feet and a total depth of 173 feet. The main structure will rise 337 feet above the curb, have 25 floors, and rising above all will be a handsome tower 15 stories high, making a total height of 550 feet. In the frame there will be 26,000 tons of steel, and in the shell 700,000 cubic feet of granite. Each floor will be approximately one acre in extent, and 32 elevators will carry the people up and down. Altogether it will accommodate 8,000 employees and cost \$10,000,000. The foundation alone will cost \$1,443,000.

The old superstition in Florida was against deep plowing, and three or four inches was as deep as ever a plow was allowed to penetrate. The idea was that deep plowing would "kill" the soil. Possibly a better reason was that the small, weak ponies then in use could not plow deeper than four inches. This idea has changed very rapidly, and deep plowing is now the rule among the better class of farmers. This loosens up the ground, and makes it hold moisture better, so that it is a preventive of the effects of drought. It is found that ground plowed as deep as 15 inches is all the better for it. The deepening is not all done in one year, but at the rate of about an inch a year.

It is to the high credit of the District of Columbia Militia and its efficient commander, Brig.-Gen. Geo. H. Harries, that it passed through the recent maneuvers at Gettysburg without the least of the grumbling and the complaints of illness customary from the militia when assembled in camp for practice in field work. The health report is particularly excellent. Only 26 one-thousandths of one per cent of the Regulars and militia at Gettysburg were or have been ill. This is the lowest rate of sickness ever known in a camp of instruction, and the health of the militiamen vivid with that of the Regulars.